

City Way Day Nursery

18 City Way, Rochester, Kent. ME1 2AB



Inspection date	14 January 2016
Previous inspection date	11 April 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Insufficient systems are in place to ensure that staff declare any significant changes which may affect their suitability to work with children. This is a breach of a legal requirement.
- The quality of teaching is variable across the nursery. The senior leadership team has not made improvements to teaching they know are needed in the Caterpillars room. Children's different needs are not well met in this room.
- Procedures to check that all groups of children are learning and making progress are still very new. As a result, leaders and managers do not regularly monitor to make sure all groups of children are achieving as well as they should.

It has the following strengths

- There is a happy atmosphere in the nursery. Staff care about the children and form close relationships with them.
- Parents confirm they are happy with the nursery and say they feel involved in their children's learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

Due Date

- ensure that staff have regular opportunities to declare any changes to their suitability to work with children, including any circumstances which make staff disqualified or disqualified by association, convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings.
 22/01/2016

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

Due Date

- improve the quality of teaching and support for children's learning in the Caterpillars room to ensure that all children's needs are consistently met
 26/02/2016
- make better use of assessment information to enable staff to accurately monitor whether all groups of children are making good or better progress
 26/02/2016
- ensure staff in the Caterpillars room use their knowledge of what children know and can do to set more precise targets so they make faster progress, especially the quieter, less confident children and those with communication difficulties.
 26/02/2016

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the support for children's learning, both in the inside and outside areas.
- The inspector talked to staff about how they plan for each child's learning needs and measure their progress.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the deputy managers to evaluate the quality of teaching.
- The inspector talked to children and asked them what they do and enjoy at nursery.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, such as records of children's progress, staff training files, suitability checks for staff and child protection logs.
- The inspector talked to parents who were available on the day of inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jo Caswell HMI

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding arrangements are not effective. Staff are not regularly asked to declare any changes to their suitability to work with children. This is a breach of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and means that senior staff cannot be sure that children are safe. Leaders and managers have recently worked together to strengthen the quality of provision, make improvements to the safety of the premises and improve hygiene arrangements. Relevant risk assessments are now completed and identified hazards in the rooms and outside areas have now been made safe. However, too much of the senior leadership's time has been spent on addressing these issues and not on improving teaching. Staff have regular opportunities to discuss their work and raise any concerns. Essential support for staff in the Caterpillars room to improve their practice is only just beginning. As a result, children's learning here is not as good as in other areas of the nursery. Although some staff are very well trained, the impact of this is not always seen, especially in the Caterpillars room.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The quality of teaching is inconsistent. Staff in the Caterpillars room spend too much of their time supervising children, rather than supporting their learning through purposeful activities. High noise levels in this room mean that the needs of younger or less confident children, those who require additional support with speech and language, or those who speak English as an additional language, are not always met. This hinders their progress. However, when the group size is smaller, or when children have more opportunities to be outside, teaching is better. Provision in the Ladybirds and Bumblebees room is more effective. Staff know the children well and understand how children learn. Babies' language and communication skills are successfully supported as staff copy sounds they attempt to make and introduce new words. Young children in the Bumblebees room enjoy exploratory play and creative activities. Staff observe children carefully and notice when some resources are not used as well as others. For example, by moving the sand tray to another area of the room more children used it. Procedures to check that children are learning and making progress are in place. Partnerships with parents and local schools are well established. Regular 'Stay and Play' sessions and 'Tasty Tuesdays' mean parents join in activities with children. This helps them understand how to further develop children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

The weaknesses identified in continually making sure staff are suitable to work with children impact significantly on children's safety and well-being. The disruptive behaviour and actions of some children in the Caterpillars room impacts on children's learning. Staff have not taken appropriate action to address this and manage behaviour better. Despite this, children enjoy their day at nursery and benefit from close relationships with the staff. Babies are looked after by staff who know their personal routines well. They respond positively and promptly to babies' non-verbal gestures and communication. For example, staff quickly recognise when babies are getting tired or hungry. The atmosphere within

the Ladybirds room is very homely, calm and positive. Appropriate support is given for younger children to develop the skills they need to look after themselves. For example, staff help children to blow their noses and wipe their hands and faces after eating. Children are taught to clean their teeth after eating and this helps to develop appropriate personal hygiene routines. Some opportunities are available for children to play and be physically active outside, which helps support their healthy development.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Some children make typical progress for their age, but this is not the same for all children. Variations in teaching within the nursery mean not all children learn as well as others. Where teaching is better, children develop important skills which will help them be prepared for starting school. Systems to monitor how well different groups of children learn are still in the early stages of development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	103713
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	1034224
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	78
Number of children on roll	82
Name of provider	City Way Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	11 April 2013
Telephone number	01634 845724

City Way Day Nursery has been registered since 1999 and is situated in Rochester, Kent. The nursery provides care for children aged up to five years, and also offers out of school provision for school-aged children. It is open from 7.30am until 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register, and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are 24 members of staff who work with the children. Of these, 21 hold recognised early years qualifications. One staff member holds Early Years Teacher status. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and also a number of children who speak English as an additional language. There are 82 children aged under five years on roll. The nursery provides funded early years provision for children aged two, three and four years.

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